

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY
NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION SAFETY TEAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE
JUSTIFICATION FOR RENEWAL**

The National Construction Safety Team (NCST) Advisory Committee (Committee) is authorized by the National Construction Safety Team Act (P.L. 107-231) (NCST Act or Act).

Renewal of the charter is essential to the implementation of the NCST Act and to the conduct of investigations under the authorities of the Act.

A. Background

- (1) As required by the Act, the Committee acts in the public interest to:
 - a. Advise the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) on carrying out the Act by:
 - Providing advice on the functions of National Construction Safety Teams, hereinafter referred to as Teams, as described in section 2(b)(2) of the Act.
 - Providing advice on the composition of Teams under section 3 of the Act.
 - Providing advice on the exercise of authorities enumerated in sections 4 and 5 of the Act.
 - Providing such other advice as necessary to enable the Director of NIST to carry out the Act.
 - b. Review the procedures developed under section 2(c)(1) of the Act.
 - c. Review the reports issued under section 8 of the Act.
 - d. Function solely as an advisory body, in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.
- (2) The Committee currently consists of 6 members appointed by the NIST Director. The members are subject matter experts in the fields of structural engineering, insurance, building codes and standards, risk analysis and management, and fire engineering. Members are selected to provide expertise in a cross-section of fields relevant to the conduct of investigations under the authorities of the NCST Act.
- (3) The function of this Committee cannot be performed by any other existing committee within the Department of Commerce.
- (4) The proposed renewal charter is attached to this justification.

B. Accomplishments

- (1) The Committee reviewed the progress of the NCST investigation of the May 22, 2011, Joplin, MO tornado, and provided general advice to the NIST Director.
- (2) The Committee's 2015 report to Congress provided their advice on NIST's FY 2015 activities under the NCST Act, and an update to the recommendations previously provided by the Committee. The report focused on the following topic areas:
 - Status of the Engineering Laboratory's fire investigations
 - Status of the Community Resilience Center of Excellence
 - Implementation of the Joplin Tornado Recommendations
 - National Construction Safety Teams Advisory Committee (NSTAC) input on the NIST Disaster Data Repository
 - NCSTAC input on disaster investigations criteria

In accordance with the Act and the Committee's charter, NIST only accepted the Committee's advice regarding the topics that fall within the Committee's statutory authority, that is Implementation of the Joplin Tornado Recommendations and Committee input on disaster investigations criteria.

C. Activities

- (1) From November 9, 2014 through March 21, 2016, the members of the Committee met two (2) times face-to-face and one (1) time via a teleconference call.
- (2) During the March 26th, 2015 Committee meeting at NIST in Gaithersburg, MD, the Committee dedicated a day to receive: (a) an update on NIST's responses to the NCSTAC's 2013 Annual Report Recommendations, (b) an update on the progress of the implementations of NIST's recommendations as a result of the Joplin, MO tornado, (c) an update on NIST's implementation of the NCST Act, (d) an update on NIST's efforts in the development of disaster data repositories, and (e) the Committee's 2015 annual report to Congress writing assignments.
- (3) During the July 2, 2015 Committee conference call meeting, the Committee edited their draft annual report to Congress.

D. Costs

The estimated annual cost to NIST to operate the NCST Committee is \$50,000, assuming one face-to-face meeting per year and including NIST staff support, travel, and per diem expenses of the members to attend the meeting. Additional meetings of the Committee will be held using WebEx with live audio streaming to the public, significantly reducing cost.

